



National Science Foundation • Office of Inspector General

2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

September 28, 2019

Emma Best
79443-75124818@requests.muckrock.com

Via E-mail

RE: FOIA Request No. 19-021

Dear Ms. Best:

You filed a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 USC 552 and the National Science Foundation Office of Inspector General (NSF OIG) received the request on August 26, 2019. The request you filed was assigned the following number: F-2019-021. In your own words, you seek the following:

a copy of the list or printout or database listing of Inspector General investigations closed/reports completed during calendar year 2015. If the list is organized by FY rather than calendar year, the FY 2015 list is sufficient for this request. If no central list or database exists, then I request copies of the cover sheet or first page of each IG report completed during calendar year 2015.

After reviewing the scope and substance of the request, the NSF OIG FOIA office sent a request for clarification on August 28, 2019. You have yet to respond to the request for clarification. Rather than administratively closing this request, the NSF OIG FOIA office has interpreted the scope and substance as a request for publicly available closed investigations and reports, which you may find on the OIG web page.

As explained on August 28, 2019, NSF OIG has an office of audit (OA) and an office of investigations (OI). On the NSF OIG web page, one can access OA's reports, and OI's close-out memoranda.

For access to OI's closeout memoranda, which are posted in chronological order, please use the following file path: <https://www.nsf.gov/oig/case-closeout.jsp> and scroll through the information that interests you.

For access to the OA completed reports, please use the following file path: <https://www.nsf.gov/oig/reports/> and scroll through the information that interests you.

If you seek further assistance or wish to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact me, the OIG's FOIA Public Liaison, at (703) 292-7100 or foiaoig@nsf.gov. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free at 1(877) 684-6448; or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with the OIG's response to your request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Counsel to the Inspector General, Kenneth Chason, Office of the Inspector General, National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314. Alternatively, you may appeal directly to the General Counsel of the Foundation, at the same address.¹ Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days from the date of this response.

Additionally, please note that Congress has excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

Sincerely,

/s/

Elizabeth Sweetland
Assistant Counsel to the Inspector General
National Science Foundation
Office of Inspector General

¹ For appeals to NSF's General Counsel, note the requirements of 45 C.F.R. § 612.9(a): "You must make your appeal in writing and it must be received by the Office of the General Counsel within ten days of the receipt of the denial (weekends, legal holidays, and the date of receipt excluded). Note that this 10-day time period has been superseded by recent legislation enacting a 90-day time period, referenced above. Clearly mark your appeal letter and the envelope 'Freedom of Information Act Appeal.' Your appeal letter must include a copy of your written request and the denial together with any written argument you wish to submit."